

WEOBLEY RURAL DISTRICT

HEREFORDSHIRE

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ANNUAL REPORT

on the

STATE of the PUBLIC HEALTH

for the Year

1948

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H. (Resigned on 31st May, 1948) M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H. (Appointed on 1st June, 1948)
Clerk	...	...	MISS S. DENSHAM
Sanitary Inspector	T. S. WATTS, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E. (Telephone: Weobley 216)

Public Health Office: 4, CHURCH STREET, LEOMINSTER.
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To the Chairman and Members of the Weobley Rural District Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1948.

At present a housing survey of the district is being carried out. When complete, this should be of great help in determining the present housing requirements and in future planning. It will be noted that, of those houses already inspected, about one-third are classified as being fit for demolition and replacement. This gives an indication of the magnitude of the task that lies ahead.

There have been outbreaks of measles and whooping cough during the year but neither has claimed any lives; and no secondary cases of typhoid fever resulted from the infant infected at the Polish Camp at Foxley.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of the great help and ready co-operation which I have received from Mr. T. S. Watts, your Sanitary Surveyor.

M. J. PLEYDELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	49,727
Population	6,548
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948) according to the Rate Books	1,733
Rateable Value	£17,867
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£80 15 10

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR :

	Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	152	80	72
(Illegitimate)	7	4	3
Total	159	84	75
STILL BIRTHS	4	1	3
DEATHS	72	29	43
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate)	8	4	4
(Illegitimate)	2	—	2
Total	10	4	6

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1948:

Birth rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	24.3
Birth Rate for England and Wales	17.9
Death rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	10.9
Death Rate for England and Wales	10.9
Still Birth rate (per 1,000 live and still births)	24.5
Still Birth rate for England and Wales	23.1
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	62.9
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	34.0

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities continue to be available at the County Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which is under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

CLINICS

There are no clinics provided by the Local Authority.

Under the County Council and Regional Hospital Board schemes the following Clinic facilities are available to residents in the district:—

Child Welfare Centre: At Weobley, on the first Monday in each month, at 2.30 p.m.

Venereal Diseases: At the County Council Hospital, Hereford, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The schemes also provide for Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Paediatric, Ear, Nose and Throat, and Eye Clinics. During the year a Speech Therapist has been appointed to undertake treatment of those children suffering from speech defect. Children are referred to these Clinics as and when required, on the recommendation of the School Medical or Infant Welfare Authority, or at the request of the Medical Practitioner.

I am indebted to Mr. T. S. Watts for the following statement (Sections C to E) furnished under Article 27 (sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

- (1) WEOBLEY VILLAGE. The Village is supplied with mains water from the Reservoir at The Hurst, Dilwyn. The average flow is 18,000 gallons per day and the approximate consumption is 9,000 gallons per day. The supply is chlorinated at the rate of .3 parts per million of free chlorine.
- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of houses supplied | ... | ... | ... | 107 |
| Number of houses supplied by Stand Pipes | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Population supplied | ... | ... | ... | 322 |
- (2) PARISH SUPPLIES. Parish wells exist at Almeley, Blakemere and Preston-on-Wye. Stand Pipes are provided at Staunton-on-Wye and land springs form a supply at Almeley and King's Pyon.
- (3) PRIVATE SUPPLIES
- (a) Mansel Lacy. This Parish is supplied by mains water from the Ministry of Works supply, drawn from the River Wye, purified at Byford and pumped to a reservoir in Mansel Lacy.
- (b) Piped supplies exist in the parishes of Byford, Eardisland, Mansel Gamage (stand pipe), Preston-on-Wye and Staunton-on-Wye.
- (4) SAMPLING. RAW WATER SUPPLY

		No.	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
(a) Bacteriological examination	...	40	20	20
Chemical examination	...	5	3	2
		—	—	—
Total	...	45	23	22
		—	—	—
(b) Chlorinated Supply				
Bacteriological examination	...	4	4	0
		—	—	—
(c) New wells sunk	...	5		
Wells cleansed	...	4		
(d) Where upon examination water supplies have been found polluted, the owners have been notified and, where possible, existing sources have been protected, in most cases with satisfactory results.				

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A Public Sewer and outfall works is provided to the Village of Weobley. The sewer is in good condition and the manholes are regularly inspected.

The outfall works, situated on the outskirts of the village, are not of modern construction. The erection of new houses and connection of existing houses to the sewer in recent years will undoubtedly create difficulties in the near future.

A public sewer is provided at Dilwyn, sufficient at the present time for the few properties connected to it, but difficulties may arise if development takes place creating a need for sewer extension and construction of purification plant.

Number of drain tests	...	...	...	19
Number of new drains laid	...	...	...	16
Number of septic tanks built	...	...	...	19
Number of new connections to sewer	...	...	...	2
CONVERSIONS. Pits to pails	...	...	...	1
Pails to W.C.s	...	...	...	18
Flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	18

RIVERS AND STREAMS

No pollution was reported during the year, but on one occasion a dead bullock was removed from the River Wye before decomposition commenced. This work was undertaken by the Council.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Quarterly collections are made throughout the District. Collections are confined to incombustible house refuse only, and are carried out by Contract.

Disposal of refuse is carried out by tipping into disused sand or clay pits privately owned.

RODENT CONTROL

Council property, including sewers, is baited periodically by the Rodent Officer of the Herefordshire Agricultural Executive Committee under Contract with the Council. Satisfactory results have been achieved. Where infestation on Council premises or properties in private ownership is noted, the Council's Sanitary Inspector co-operated with the County Rodent Officer.

DISINFECTION

Disinfection is carried out by formalin gas and/or spraying with liquid formaldehyde.

The number of houses disinfected during the year was 7.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Table showing inspections carried out during the year.

INSPECTIONS under				No. of Inspections	Informal Notices Served	Statutory Notices Served	Notices Complied with
Housing	...	...	...	577	27	1	18
Housing Regulations	...	...	...	145	—	—	—
Factories	...	...	...	26	—	—	—
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	196	14	—	14
Hop-Pickers' Quarters	...	...	...	46	2	—	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	19	1	—	1
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	32	—	—	—
Schools	...	...	...	14	—	—	—
Water Supplies	...	...	...	85	4	—	4
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	30	—	—	—
Nuisances	...	...	...	28	5	—	3

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Premises				Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	...	...	...	20	14	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	...	...	...	12	12	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL				32	26	—	—

Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars				Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
				Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	...	...	...	
(a) Insufficient	...	...	...	1	1	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL				1	1	—	—

SECTION D.—HOUSING

HOUSING

Number of Council Houses built in 1948	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Privately owned houses built in 1948	...	...	...	...	3
Number of Council Houses under construction (permanent)	...	...	...	...	14
Number of Private Houses under construction (permanent)	...	...	...	...	2

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY. The survey of working class houses in the district commenced during 1948. Approximately 1,100 houses require to be surveyed, of which 145 were inspected during the year. It is anticipated that the survey will be complete in about eighteen months' time. No additional staff is appointed by the Council for this purpose, the survey being carried out by the Sanitary Inspector in the normal course of his duties.

The following are the categories in which the houses were placed:—

Category	...	1	2	3	4	5
		<u>12</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>55</u>
Category 1	—	Satisfactory.				
„ 2	—	Minor Defects.				
„ 3	—	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement.				
„ 4	—	Appropriate for reconditioning under Housing (Rural Workers) Act.				
„ 5	—	Requiring demolition and replacement.				

Number of Demolition Orders made during the year	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Closing Orders made (Section 12) during the year	...	...	...	1
Number of Houses in which the owner gave an undertaking not to re-let for human habitation	...	...	...	1
Number of houses made fit by owners as an alternative to demolition	...	...	...	1

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

1. (a) Number of houses inspected for housing defects under the Housing and Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	145
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	577
2. Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	133

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY NOTICES DURING THE YEAR:

1. Number of notices served	...	...	...	...	1
2. Number of notices complied with	...	...	...	...	Nil

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. MILK SUPPLY.

Number of inspections during the year	...	...	...	...	196
Number of milk samples taken under the Milk Special Designation Order	...	...	...	...	26
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	14
Number of Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	14

2. SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number in District	...	...	...	...	3
Notices served	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Visits	...	...	...	...	32

NOTE.—All meat supplied in the District is from the Ministry of Food Depots and is inspected outside the District. Routine checks on the meat supplied are made and all meat has been found free from disease.

3. FOOD PREMISES.

The following foods were inspected, found unfit for human consumption and were surrendered by the owners to be destroyed:

Food	Quantity	Condition
Meat Pies	48	Mould
Prunes	1 box	Mould
Bacon	8½ lbs.	Taint
Tomato Juice	11 tins	Perforated tins
Cheese (imported French) ...	96 packets	Maggot infested
Tinned Vegetables	5 tins	Blown
Tinned Fruit	17 tins	Blown
Tinned Fish	6 tins	Blown
Tinned Milk	7 tins	Blown and/or perforated
Butter	1 lb.	Rat fouled

HOP-PICKERS' QUARTERS.

Number of Farms having accommodation for pickers	7
Number of visits during the year	46
Number of defects found	2
Number of defects remedied	2

Inspections of accommodation are carried out before and during occupation. The defects found during the season were a defective fire escape and a defective closet.

It is noted that there is a tendency for pickers to disregard the provision of refuse bins. In several cases pickers were verbally notified to observe these provisions.

No cases of notifiable disease occurred among pickers during the season.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

MEASLES. During the year 117 cases of measles were notified. The outbreak started in February, but the main incidence occurred in June and July. This seasonal occurrence is favourable as it results in fewer pulmonary complications. The maximum number of cases occurred in the six to seven year age group, this also being a favourable factor since the fatality rate is highest in the first few years of life. No deaths were reported from the outbreak.

WHOOPING COUGH. Eighty-one cases of whooping cough were notified. The majority of these cases occurred in the first few months of the year, the maximum incidence falling in the 0-1, 2-3, and 5-6 year age groups.

SCARLET FEVER. Seven cases of scarlet fever occurred during the year. These cases were scattered throughout the district, and apart from one instance where two members of a family were infected, there was no obvious connection between the cases.

TYPHOID FEVER. On July 16th a case of typhoid fever was notified, the infant affected coming from the Polish Camp, Foxley. The diagnosis was made at the Hereford County Hospital, from which he was transferred to the Isolation Hospital at Credenhill. He returned to the camp in September after having made an uneventful recovery.

Detailed investigations made to trace the source of the infection showed that the water and milk supplies were not incriminated. Examination of the contacts revealed that the maternal grandmother of the infant, who had contracted typhoid fever in India in 1943, and had been inoculated with T.A.B. in 1947, was a chronic faecal carrier. The infecting strain of the organism was Vi-phage, Type F1, the same strain that had caused the infection in her grandson. Medical and surgical treatment of her condition proved unsuccessful, and as it was considered inadvisable that she should return to the camp, she left the district to reside with friends. Her movements, and the movement of other contacts of the case, were notified to the Medical Officers of Health of the districts concerned. This was a purely local outbreak, and it is satisfactory to note that no further cases occurred in the district.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASE	AGE OF PATIENT													Total	
	0—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—6	6—7	7—10	10—15	15—20	20—30	30 —40	Over 40		Unknown
Measles	—	8	13	11	10	9	21	28	10	3	1	2	—	—	117
Whooping Cough .. .	9	5	12	6	6	13	6	19	3	—	—	—	—	—	81
Pneumonia .. .	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	2	—	2	—	13
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Typhoid Fever .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meningococcal Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	7

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

As from July 5th, 1948, the duties relating to immunisation were transferred to the County Health Department, and the following figures are presented with the consent of the County Medical Officer.

Number of children at 31st December, 1948, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1934).

Age at 31. 12. 48	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15	Estimated mid-year child population 1948		
									Under 5	5-14	Total
i.e. Born in year	1948	47	46	45	44	39- 43	34- 38				
	3	51	65	42	39	286	310	796	649	924	1573

These figures indicate that 30.8% of the child population of the 0—4 years age group and 64.5% of the population in the 5—14 years age group were immunised against diphtheria at the end of 1948 as compared with 26.8% and 64.3% respectively at the end of 1947. 50.6% of the child population under 15 years is immunised against diphtheria.

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1948, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 25 males and 28 females who normally reside in the district.

During the year, eight new cases were notified, all on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. During the same period, five deaths of persons suffering from the disease occurred; one case recovered; and three persons left the district.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	2	2	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Syphilitic diseases	—	1	1
Cancer (all forms)	5	6	11
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	4	7	11
Heart disease	6	17	23
Respiratory diseases	1	1	2
Diseases of the Digestive system	1	—	1
Nephritis	—	2	2
Premature Birth	2	2	4
Congenital conditions (at birth)	1	2	3
Violence	3	2	5
All other causes	3	1	4